**PPOL 6100J Comparative Social Welfare Policy**

**SYLLABUS**

Time and Venue: Thursday 6:30PM-9:20PM @ Room 2464 (with effect from March 2)

Instructor: [Associate Professor HE Jingwei Alex](mailto:ajwhe@ust.hk), Division of Public Policy, HKUST  
E-mail: ajwhe@ust.hk; Telephone: 3469-2282  
Office hour: Wednesday 2:30PM-4:30PM @Room4616A

Teaching Assistant: Ms JAMWUTTHIPREECHA Wichanon (Maya), PhD Candidate; E-mail: wjaa@connect.ust.hk

**Course Description**

This elective course teaches social policy concepts and practices in a comparative perspective. It critically examines major social policy challenges confronting societies in Asia. A key feature of this course is that social welfare issues are addressed through case examples and accompanied by concrete analyses based on policy practices of societies in the region. Adopting a comparative approach in analyzing social policy design and implementation, this course will enable students to understand the most recent developments related to poverty alleviation, health care, labour protection, social security, and public housing policies in Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore. Students will engage in comparing and contrasting major social welfare issues with the purpose of understanding their underlying dynamics and devising appropriate responses.

**Course Objectives**

Students who successfully undertake this course will:

- Understand the concepts and approaches of social policy studies.
- Appreciate the value of social welfare policies to human dignity and development.
- Be equipped with useful analytical skills in examining poverty alleviation, health, labour protection, old-age protection, and public housing policies.
- Compare and contrast the policy strategies of governments in Asia in promoting social development and make assessment.

**Suggested Readings**


**Assessment**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer evaluation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Due on May 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group report</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Due on May 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual essay</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Due on April 4</td>
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Class #1 Introduction: Understanding Social Policy
February 9

Readings:

Class #2 and Class #3 Poverty and Poverty Alleviation (I) and (II)
February 16 and February 23

Readings:

Class #4, Class #5, and Class #6 Health Policy (I), (II) and (III)
March 2, March 9, and March 16
A special moving screening session @ March 2

Readings:
- Yin, J.D.C., and He, J.A. (2018). Health insurance reforms in Singapore and Hong Kong: How the two ageing Asian Tigers respond to health financing challenges? Health Policy, 122(7), 693-697.

Study Tour (health policy): The Chinese University of Hong Kong Medical Centre
March 14 2023, 2:30-4:00PM
Guest Speaker: **Professor Hong FUNG**, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, CUHK Medical Centre; Professor of Practice, Jockey Club School of Public Health & Primary Care, CUHK.

**Study Tour (public housing):** Cheung Hong Estate, Tsing Yi Island, Kwai Tsing District  
March 21, 2023, 2:30 to 4:00PM  
With support from the Hong Kong Housing Authority

**Class #7 Public Housing Policy (I)**  
March 23

**Readings:**

**Class #8 Public Housing Policy (II)**  
March 30

**Guest Lecture**  
Speakers:
- **Professor Anthony B.L. Cheung**, GBS, JP, Secretary for Transport and Housing, Hong Kong SAR Government (2012-2017).  
- **Ms Vivien F.Y. Tang**, Singapore citizen, PhD Candidate, Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong

**Class #9 Labour Protection**  
April 13

**Readings:**

**Class #10 and Class #11 Retirement Protection and Elderly Care (I) and (II)**  
April 20 and April 27

**Readings:**

**Class #12 The Politics of Social Policy-Making: Two Stories**
May 4

**Class #13 Class Wrap-up**
May 11
A special movie screening session